

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A device for evacuating waste product through an orifice in a mammalian body, the device including a chamber having an inlet and an outlet, the inlet being able to be brought into abutment with the body ~~about~~over the orifice and the outlet being connectable to a suction means adapted to apply suction to the orifice,

B1 the device further including an irrigating means for introducing an irrigating fluid into the orifice,

the irrigating means having a free end that is movable relative to the chamber between at least a first position outside the orifice and a second position at least partially within the orifice.

2. (currently amended) A device for evacuating waste product through an orifice in a mammalian body, the device including a chamber having an inlet and an outlet, the inlet being able to be brought into abutment with the body ~~about~~over the orifice and the outlet being

connectable to a suction means adapted to apply suction to the orifice, and

an orifice engaging means that is insertable within the bodily orifice and substantially seals said bodily orifice when the inlet of the chamber is in abutment with the body.

3. (original) The device of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the inlet of the chamber seals with the body about the orifice.

4-7. (canceled)

B (8. (currently amended) ~~The device of claim 1 or claim 2-A device for evacuating waste product through an orifice in a mammalian body, the device including a chamber having an inlet and an outlet,~~

the inlet being able to be brought into abutment with the body about the orifice and the outlet being connectable to a suction means,

the device further including an irrigating means for introducing an irrigating fluid into the orifice,
the irrigating means having a free end that is movable relative to the chamber between at least a first

position outside the orifice and a second position at least partially within the orifice,

wherein the inlet is located at a first end of the chamber and the outlet of the chamber is located at a second end of the chamber distal the first end.

9. (original) The device of claim 8 wherein the outlet comprises an opening in the second end of the chamber.

10. (original) The device of claim 9 wherein the opening is surrounded by a spout extending outwardly from the second end and having a central bore in fluid communication with the opening.

11-15. (Canceled)

16. (previously presented) The device of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the chamber has a further orifice formed therein to allow pressure equalisation between the interior and exterior of the chamber.

17. (original) The device of claim 16 wherein the further orifice is formed in a wall of the chamber and wherein the further orifice has an open-ended tube connected thereto.

18-25. (canceled)

26. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein the irrigating means comprises a catheter having at least one lumen in fluid communication with an orifice for the passage of an irrigation fluid and a free end for insertion into the bodily orifice of a user.

27. (original) The device of claim 26 wherein the catheter extends through an opening in the outlet of the chamber, and further, wherein the catheter is movable relative to the outlet while also retaining a substantial seal with the opening in the outlet.

28-26. (canceled)

37. (original) The device of claim 26 wherein the catheter further includes an orifice engaging member that is engagable with the wall of the orifice in the mammalian body when the catheter is in the second position relative to the chamber.

38. (original) The device of claim 37 wherein the orifice engaging member is an expandable member positioned adjacent the free end of the catheter, the orifice engaging member being able to be expanded when the catheter is in the second position within the bodily orifice.

39. (original) The device of claim 38 wherein the expandable member comprises a balloon member that is inflatable by passing a fluid through the catheter to expand the balloon member.

40. (original) The device of claim 39 wherein the balloon member is in fluid communication with a separate lumen within the catheter and wherein a small quantity of air or another fluid is injected into the separate lumen to cause the balloon member to expand.

41. (previously presented) The device of claim 39 wherein the expansion of the balloon member occludes the bodily orifice about the catheter thereby preventing relative movement of the catheter to the bodily orifice.

42. (original) The device of claim 37 wherein the orifice engaging member comprises a frusto-conical member that

increases in diameter away from the free end of the catheter such that it seals the orifice about the catheter when it is inserted into the orifice.

43. (original) The device of claim 26 wherein the catheter further includes a spacing member adapted to at least abut the body about and immediately adjacent the bodily orifice when the catheter is in the second position.

44. (original) The device of claim 43 wherein the spacing member comprises a cup that is mounted to the catheter and spaced from its free end and wherein the distance between the free end of the catheter and the spacing member sets the maximum depth of insertion of the free end into the bodily orifice.

45-46. (canceled)

47. (original) The device of claim 2 wherein the orifice engaging means is expandable from a collapsed condition to an expanded condition.

48. (canceled)

49. (previously presented) The device of claim 47 wherein the orifice engaging means further includes a means to introduce an irrigating fluid into the orifice of a patient.

50. (previously presented) The device of claim 47 wherein the orifice engaging means comprises an articulated jaw member.

51. (original) The device of claim 50 wherein the jaw member is encased within a non-rigid and substantially cylindrical sleeve that is movable into abutment with the wall of the bodily orifice on articulation of the jaw into its expanded condition.

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52. (canceled)

53. (previously presented) The device of claim 51 wherein the combination of the jaw member and the sleeve acts as both the means of delivering an irrigating fluid to within the bodily orifice and an outlet for waste exiting the orifice.

54-56. (canceled)

57. (original) The device of claim 1 further including a pumping means wherein the pumping means forces the irrigating fluid through the catheter lumen and wherein further, the pumping means regulates the rate of flow of water through the catheter lumen.

58. (original) The device of claim 2 further including a pumping means to pump an irrigating fluid into the chamber and wherein the pumping means regulates the flow of irrigating fluid into the chamber.

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59-69. (canceled)

70. (previously presented) The device of claim 1 or claim 2 when used in the evacuation of waste product from artificial stomas including colostomies.

71-75. (canceled)

76. (original) A method of evacuating waste from an orifice in a mammalian body using the device of claim 1, the method including the steps of:

(i) abutting the inlet of the chamber to the body about the orifice;

(ii) moving the irrigating means to the second position where its free end is at least partially within the orifice;

(iii) irrigating the bodily orifice with an irrigating fluid transported through the irrigating means; and

(iv) applying suction to the outlet of the chamber to withdraw waste from the orifice into the chamber and through the outlet.

77. (original) The method of claim 76 including the further step of sealingly engaging the free end of the irrigating means with the bodily orifice prior to, and at all times while, the bodily orifice is irrigated with the irrigating fluid.

78. (original) The method of claim 77 wherein the sealing engagement of the free end is provided by an inflatable balloon that occludes the orifice around the irrigating means.

79. (canceled)

80. (original) The method of claim 76 for the evacuation of waste product from artificial stomas, such as colostomies.

81. (original) The method of claim 76 for evacuation of waste product from natural stomas, such as the anus.

82. (original) A method of evacuating waste product from an orifice in a mammalian body using the device according to claim 2, the method including the steps of:

(i) abutting the inlet of the chamber to the body about the orifice;

(ii) engaging the orifice engaging means within the orifice;

(iii) irrigating the bodily orifice with an irrigating fluid; and

(iv) applying suction to the outlet of the chamber to withdraw waste from the bodily orifice into the chamber and through the outlet.

83. (original) The method of claim 82 wherein the orifice engaging means is moved from a collapsed condition to an expanded condition to engage the bodily orifice.

84. (original) The method of claim 82 for the evacuation of waste product from artificial stomas, such as colostomies.

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85. (original) The method of claim 82 for the evacuation of waste product from natural stomas, such as the anus.